

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4214

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON COLUMN AND NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE
ON NICKEL AND BURUNDI

REF A STATE 51204; B. STATE 42714

1. SEEMS TO ME BEST RIPOSTE THAT CAN BE MADE TO THESE ARTICLES IS TO EXPOSE UNFORTUNATE BAD FAITH OF AUTHORS. INDIVIDUAL QUOTATIONS THAT MORRIS AND ANDERSON HAVE SELECTED HAVE OF COURSE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT FROM REASONED POLPHY PAPERS, PRESUMABLY MEANING THAT, WHATEVER THE AUTHORS' GOALS, THESE GOALS OVERSHADOW THE MEANS WHICH THE AUTHORS FEEL FREE TO USE IN ATTAINING THEM.

2. IN EFFORT TO MAKE THIS CLEAR, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ISSUING A STATEMENT NOTING THAT OUR POLICY TOWARD BURUNDI HAS BEEN BASED ON DOING WHAT WE CAN TO AVOID FURTHER BLOODSHED IN THIS TRAGIC AREA. AS NOTED NEWSOM STATEMENT LAST YEAR, THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO ONLY AVAILABLE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO HELPING TO REINFORCE CALM IN BURUNDI AND TO FINDING LONG-TERM PEACEFUL SOLUTION, I.E., THROUGH INTEREST OF AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERS

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AND ORGANIZATIONS. (NOTE THAT COUNTERPRODUCTIVENESS OF

UNILATERAL ACTION AGAIN USEFULLY UNDERLINED IN LETTER TO
EDITOR FROM KENYAN PROFESSOR PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER-
OCTOBER 1973 ISSUE OF AFRICA REPORT.)

A. THE ECONOMIC POLICY OBJECTIVE ON WHICH THE ARTICLES
PLACE SUCH EMPHASIS, I.E., QUOTE TO PROMOTE VIABLE U.S.
INVESTMENT UNQUOTE, IS ONE WHICH WE PURSUE IN MANY COUNTRIES
IN THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF BOTH INVESTING AND RECEIVING PARTIES.
THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPLOITABLE NICKEL DEPOSITS IN BURUNDI IS BEING
FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST, BUT IS CERTAINLY NOT CONTROLLING IN OUR
CONSIDERATION OF EVENTS IN THIS AREA.

B. THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI, WHICH

APPEARS TO BE OBJECT OF ATTACK OF THESE TWO COLUMNS, WOULD,
SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BY BURUNDI GOVERNMENT, CONSIST OF:

(1) REACTIVATION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S SELF-HELP
FUND (AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, ABOUT \$25,000, USED TO
PROMOTE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SMALL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS
OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE);

(2) A PILOT PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THREE
HBERNAL-AND-CHILD-HEALTH CLINICS, CONCEIVED IN COOPERATION WITH
THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT, WHO, AND UNESCO;

(3) REESTABLISHMENT OF ONE ENGLISH TEACHING
POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY; AND

(4) EVENTUALLY, A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXCHANGE GRANTS
TO PERMIT US TO GIVE A VIEW OF THE U.S., ITS PEOPLE, AND
ITS INSTITUTIONS TO BARUNDI VISITORS.

3. A MOVE LIKE THIS, IF PROMPTLY MADE, SHOULD TAKE SOME
OF THE STING OUT OF THIS SELF-SERVING NONSENSE WITHOUT
UNNECESSARILY DAMAGING OUR POTENTIAL FOR BEING OF SERVICE

IN BURUNDI. I WOULD REGRET EXPOSING SMALL SIZE OF U.S.
CONTRIBUTION HERE, SO FAR AS OUR LOCAL POSTURE IN
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COMPARISON OTHER FOREIGN DONOR COUNTRIES IS CONCERNED, BUT
BELIEVE THIS IS OUTWEIGHED BY OPPORTUNITY PUT THESE
UNWARRANTED ATTACKS IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

4. ASSUME THERE WILL ALSO BE REACTION FROM THE CONGRESS.
DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONSIDER ADVANTAGES OF MOVING IMMEDIATELY
TO SHOW EMBASSY'S POLICY PAPER, TO ANY SENATOR OR CONGRESSMAN WHO
MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER. THE PAPER

SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, AND OUR INABILITY TO PUBLISH IT COULD
PERHAPS BE COMPENSATED BY SELECTIVE SHOWING ON A CONFIDENTIAL
BASIS. AS OPTIONS ATTACHMENT STATES, QUOTE IT IS PRECISELY
OUR HUMANITARIAN INTEREST, THE DESIRE TO IMPROVE CHANCES FOR
A LONG-TERM JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO BURUNDI'S PROBLEMS,
WHICH JUSTIFIES THE EFFORT ENVISAGED. UNQUOTE.

5. ADVISE IF I CAN CONTRIBUTE FURTHER FROM THIS END.
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